T.F.A.I are charging fees from the exporters who want to gain access to the information from its Trade Information Centres, apart from services charges from participants in such fairs;

(e) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(f) whether Government propose to reduce such charges in order to encourage exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) During 1989-90, 1990-91 and 1991-92, Trade Fair Authority of India now named as India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) organised participation in fairs/ exhibitions abroad as under:—

Year	No. of fairs/ exhibitions
1989-90	43
1990-91	38
1991-92	38

(b) The I.T.D.C. have not intimated their programme of participation in fairs/ exhibitions being organised by Trade Fair Authority of India during 1992-93. India Trade Promotion Organisation proposes to participate in 41 events including 2 exclusive Indian exhibitions in Ukraine and Mauritius.

(c) Expenditure incurred on participation in fairs /exhibitions abroad and business booked as reported by the participants during 1990-91 and 1991-92 (till January, 1992) is as under:—

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Year	No. of fairs/ exhibitions reported by the participants	Expenditure incurred	Business booked as
1990-91	38	1198.97	44179.73
1991-92 (till January, 1992)	34	1318.20	38540.46

(d) and (e) Trade Fair Authority of India are not charging any fees from exporters for supply of information by its Trade Information Offices (abroad).

(f) Does not arise.

Telecom Link As Between Pune-Bombay-Dhulia

*195. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Rs. 60 crores high-technical fibre-optic telecom link as between Pune-Bombay-Dhulia which was commissioned on the 31st March, 1991 has remained unutilised, so far;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) how much loss has been sufferred by Government as a result thereof; and

(d) what steps have been taken by Government to utilise this link?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) The Optical Fibre systems between Bombay-Pune and Bombay-Dhulia have not yet been commissioned.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.

(d) The links are expected to be commissioned in April/May'92. They will be utilised thereafter.

Agitation in New India Assurance Company, New Delhi

*196. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that employees of New India Assurance Company, Delhi Regional Office I are on agitation;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what are the demands of the Unions/ Associations;

(c) whether it is also a fact that top executives are being frequently reshuffled; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take to ensure proper functioning of the organisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Expansion of Telephone Facilities in Orissa

*197. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the action plan to provide more telephone exchanges and telephone connections in Bhubaneswar and at the District Headquarters of Orissa;

(b) what is the number of new telephone connections proposed to be provided in Bhubaneswar during the year 1992-93?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) As part of the eighth Five Year Plan, it is proposed to expand the telecom. services in the State of Orissa also so as to contain the waiting period in the large systems to less than two years and to make telephones available on demand in smaller systems, rural and backward areas by the end of the 8th Plan. The actual expansions or setting up of new telephone exchanges will depend on the growth of demand. During 1992-93 about 2000 new telephone connections are proposed to be given in Bhubaneswar. In the State of Orissa, about 12000 new telephone connections are proposed to be given in 1992-93.

हीरों का निर्यात

*198. **श्री विश्वासराव रामराव पाटिल :**
श्री भुवनेश्वर कालिता :

क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) सरकार का हीरों के निर्यात के संबंध में क्या कदम उठाने का विचार है;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि हीरों के निर्यात में कमी आई है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(घ) इस व्यवसाय में लगे लोगों की शिकायतों को दूर करने तथा हीरों के निर्यात में वृद्धि करने के लिये सरकार द्वारा क्या कार्यवाही की जा रही है?

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री पी० चिदम्बरम): (क) से (घ) तराशे और पालिश किए गए हीरे का निर्यात 1989-90 में 4971.93 करोड़ रु० का और 1990-91 में 4738.71 करोड़ रु० का हुआ। चालू वर्ष में, वित्तीय वर्ष के प्रथम 10 महीनों में 4737.94 करोड़ रु० का निर्यात हुआ जो पिछले वर्ष की इसी अवधि के दौरान 3619.35 करोड़ रुपए की तुलना में 1118 करोड़ रु० अधिक है। हालांकि इसमें रुपए के रूप में वृद्धि हुई है, किंतु अमरीकन डालर के रूप में इसमें थोड़ी सी गिरावट आई है। ऐसा मुख्य रूप से हमारे प्रमुख खरीददारों की अर्थव्यवस्था में मन्दी के कारण हीरों की अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मांग में गिरावट के कारण हुआ है। सरकार ने हीरा निर्यातकों को पर्याप्त मात्रा में आयातित कच्चे माल की उपलब्धता सुनिश्चित की है। हीरे का निर्यात बढ़ाने के लिए सरकार द्वारा किए गए अन्य उपायों में विदेश में मेलों और प्रदर्शनियों में भाग लेना, बाजार सर्वेक्षण के लिए विभिन्न देशों में प्रतिनिधिमंडल भेजना इत्यादि शामिल है।

Proposal to Set Up Gas based Power Plants in Madhya Pradesh

199. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be plaeased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal under its consideration to set up gas based power plants in Madhya Pradesh in the near future;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-COVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (c) The Central Electricity Authority have received a Project Feasibility Report from the Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board (MPEB) for installation of Combined Cycle Power Project of 817 MW (4x131.3 MW GT+2xl46 MW ST) in Gwalior District, Madhya Pradesh, for techno-